

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph appearing from page 6, line 11 to page 7, line 3, with the following replacement paragraph, which is marked to show the change made.

FIG. 2 illustrates, inter alia, a TPIC in the transponder 4, such as the TPICs 14 and 16 of FIG. 1. A frame memory 40 stores a valid working frame 42, a valid service frame 44 and an error frame 46. Any one of these frames may be used as the test pattern (signal). A management interface controller 48 sends a select signal on a line 50 to the frame storage memory 40 to select one of the frames to be used as a test pattern. If the error frame 46 is selected, errors are introduced which are subsequently detected by a MC at the destination transponder. The selected frame is provided to a gate 54 which is enabled to pass the selected frame to a switch 56 in response to a command signal on line 52 from the management interface controller 48. The switch 56 passes the selected frame to a transmitter 60 in response to a read data signal on a line 58 from the management interface controller 48. During normal operation, the switch 56 is configured to pass a signal on line 59 from the receiver 61 to the transmitter 60. The transmitter 60 transmits the selected frame on a line 62 to a multiplexer/demultiplexer (not shown) and to the network for provision to a connected WDM equipment.